

California State Railroad Museum


Old Sacramento State Historic Park



Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



 The California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park are continually improving accessibility. Lift assists provide access to raised viewing areas and some railroad cars. Due to historic doorway widths and steep stepwells, not all exhibits and attractions are accessible. Inquire at the Railroad Museum Ticket Counter for additional services, including wheelchair use, (916) 323-9280.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

P. O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

For information call: (800) 777-0369

(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.

711, TTY relay service

California State Railroad Museum

Corner of Second and I Streets

Sacramento, CA 95814

24-hour Information: (916) 445-6645

Business Office: (916) 445-7387

www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org



*Sacramento's historic role
as the commercial center
of the California Gold Rush
and terminus for the
Pony Express and America's first
transcontinental railroad
is preserved in Old Sacramento
State Historic Park and the
California State
Railroad Museum.*



ALL ABOARD!

Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the California State Railroad Museum houses more than 20 restored locomotives and railroad cars along with thousands of smaller artifacts and a variety of exhibits in its 100,000 square foot main exhibition facility.

Museum Theater—"Evidence of a Dream," a 20-minute award-winning documentary on the railroad's importance in developing California and making America, is shown every hour.

MAIN EXHIBIT HALL

- 1 **The Transcontinental Railroad**—linking California with the U.S.
- 2 **Developing California, Making America**—mobility, modernization and a free society
- 3 **Railroad Work, Railroad Life**—human enterprise and a changing America
- 4 **Travel by Train**—passenger travel during railroading's Golden Age
- 5 **American Icons**—steam locomotives of various sizes and the golden "Lost Spike."
- 6 **Small Wonders**—toy trains, children's activity area, changing exhibits

This park is supported in part through a nonprofit organization. For more information contact:
California State Railroad Museum Foundation
111 - I Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 322-8485
www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org



Museum Membership—Free admission and train rides, plus other great benefits too. For more information or to join, visit the Ticket Counter or our website.

Help Protect the Artifacts

Smoking, food, drinks and chewing gum are not allowed in the museum. Please do not touch or climb on exhibits except where expressly permitted.

See back of brochure for accessibility information.

Photography

Hand-held, noncommercial photography and video recordings are permitted. Tripods are not allowed in the museum. Commercial photography and filming should be arranged in advance.



Visitors enjoy the sights and sounds at Railfair.

OLD SACRAMENTO
STATE HISTORIC PARK

The California State Railroad Museum complex is located within Old Sacramento State Historic Park—itself a portion of the Old Sacramento Historic District. The fascinating history of Old Sacramento begins with the California Gold Rush.

News of the 1848 discovery of gold in nearby Coloma (site of Sutter's Mill and today home to Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park) traveled quickly around the world, drawing thousands of people to the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Originally part of the New Helvetia land grant of Captain John Sutter, Sacramento sits at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers. The commercial center of the California Gold Rush, it became a crossroads of transportation, connected by steamboats to San Francisco, by supply roads to mining regions, and to Folsom by the first railroad in the West. Despite floods, fires and epidemics, Sacramento became California's capital in 1854.

The center of the commercial district gradually moved east, and the Sacramento riverfront became a slum. In the mid-1960s, a redevelopment plan took shape. Today, with 53 historic commercial structures sited on 28 acres, Old Sacramento is a National Historic Landmark. California State Parks owns and operates a number of original and reconstructed buildings, mostly accessible, as part of Old Sacramento State Historic Park.

B.F. Hastings Building

This 1853 structure housed the owner's bank, Hastings & Company, and Wells, Fargo & Company. It also served as the western terminus for the Pony Express. California's Supreme Court held session here between 1855 and 1869. Today the building houses the Old Sacramento Visitor Center and the Wells Fargo History Museum.

Tehama Block

From 1850 to 1851, this reconstructed Greek Revival building housed numerous business ventures.

Eagle Theatre

The Eagle Theatre is a reconstruction of the first building in California specifically designed as a theater. Built in October 1849 of wood frame and canvas with a tin roof, it provided entertainment for three months before flooding on January 4, 1850.

C. M. & T. Co. Building

This reconstructed 1849 building was originally home to the Connecticut Mining & Trading Company, an auction and commission business, and general merchandise firms.

Big Four Building

Housing the Stanford Brothers Warehouse and the Huntington & Hopkins Hardware Store from the late 1850s into the 1880s, this

building was also the first headquarters of the Central Pacific Railroad.

First floor—The replica mid-nineteenth century Huntington & Hopkins Hardware Store is open Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and also during special events.

Second floor—The Railroad Museum Library, North America's finest railroad-only reference library, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dingley Spice Mill Building

After arriving in San Francisco in February 1850, Nathaniel Dingley settled in Sacramento to operate a coffee and spice business. Constructed following Sacramento's disastrous 1852 fire, the Dingley Spice Mill is restored to its circa 1860 appearance.

Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station

The station is a reconstruction of the western terminus of America's first transcontinental railroad circa 1876. It is complete with ticket office, telegraph office, main waiting room and a separate waiting room for ladies and children only. Open daily for tours (entry included with Railroad Museum admission).

Central Pacific Railroad Freight Depot

The Museum's steam-powered excursion trains arrive and depart from this reconstructed late 1800s transcontinental railroad freight station. Departures are Saturday and Sunday, April through September, hourly 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special holiday "theme" trains depart on selected weekends October through December (separate ticket required).

